National Highway No. 8 between Bombay and Vap is already having two-lane carriageway, except a strech of 3.00 Km near Bombay which is four-lane. The present volume of traffic is more than the capacity of the road.

(c) Annual Programme 1991-92 includes provision for 4-laning of further 65 Km length of National Highway 8 between Bombay and Vapi subject to availability of funds and overall priorities.

Seventh Cargo Berth at Kandla Port

2586. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to construction of 7th Cargo Berth at Kandla Port is in process ;

(b) if so, what is the amount of money that has been spent on this so far ;

(c) whether the work was to be completed in the month of October, 1991; and

(d) what is the extent of work that still remains to be carried out and the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2376 lakhs has been spent upto the and of November, 1991.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The work amounting to Rs. 859 lakhs including the work relating to dredging at a cost of Rs. 589 lakhs still remains to be carried out. The works have been delayed on account of failure of 87 piles during execution.

Funds for the National Highways

2587. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BERLA : Will the Ministr of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to financial constraints the Government's ambitious programmes for the development and maintenance of national highways in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period have received severe blow ;

(b) if so, the details of the allocations made during the current plan period for the development and maintenance of national highways ?

(c) whether a large number of important national highways could not be taken up due to financial constraints; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make available funds for the development and maintenance of national Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Since the 8th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised and outlays are not known, it is too early to assess its impact on the development of National Highway During the current Annual Plan 1991-92, there is provision of Rs. 446 crores for development of National Highways in the budget estimates.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of non-finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Request to treat shipping ndustry as rxport oriented Industry

2588. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian National Shipowners Association has underlined the need to expand the domestic fleet in order to raise the share in the country's overseas cargo ;

(b) whether the INSA has also urged Government to recognise shipping as export industry since the payment for overseas cargo is done in hard currency;

(c) whether Government propose to liberalise shipping financing rules and regulations to help shipping industry to expand its fleet; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A new Shipping Finance Package is being evolved, the main elements of which include permission to shipowners to use the sale proceeds for fresh acquisition; permission for overseas equity to be used for fresh acquisitions; raising the promoter's contribution for ship purchase; provision of Rupee loan on market related terms; permission for Joint Venture; cross border leasing